

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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The Progressive Farmer.

AND THE COTTON PLANT.

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The Most Largely Circulated Farm Weekly
Published Between Washington and New Orleans.

CLARENCE H. POE, - - Editor and Manager.
B. W. KILGORE, } - - Agricultural Editors
C. W. BURKETT, }

ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is the ambition of the Agricultural Publishing Company to make the one great farm and home weekly of the Southern States. That was announced when the company was formed to purchase and operate The Progressive Farmer last December, and at no time have we lost sight of this purpose. Expansion, to "lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes"—that has been our aim. As we said two weeks ago, a net gain of more than 2,000 in number of subscribers had been made since January 1st, but this was a gain chiefly confined to North Carolina.

To-day, therefore, we are glad to announce to our readers and friends that the Agricultural Publishing Company has just purchased the good will and subscription list of the Greenville, S. C., Cotton Plant, and combined its list of subscribers with that of The Progressive Farmer. For twenty-years The Cotton Plant has been the recognized organ of the agricultural interests of South Carolina, and its list covers every section of the State, from north to south, from east to west. We promise our South Carolina friends our most earnest efforts to make "The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant," the biggest, brightest, and best farm weekly in the South, and we ask their co-operation to this end.

To our old friends, we need only say that this addition will strengthen the paper and enable us to make it better than ever before. Our advertisers especially are to be congratulated, for this purchase means that they will now reach a magnificent list of South Carolina farmers, covering every county in the Palmetto State. And these farmers are sharing the same unprecedented prosperity which the entire South now enjoys. They have more money to spend than ever before and are buying more largely than ever before.

We go forward! Now for a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together, for 2,000 more new subscribers before January 1st!

With hearty appreciation of the support of our old friends, and hoping for the same cordial co-operation from our new South Carolina friends, we remain,

THE AGRICULTURAL PUB. CO.,

CLARENCE H. POE, President.

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 24, 1904.

The Kansas corn crop has been materially injured by the cold weather. Last year Kansas produced 169,000,000 bushels. The yield this year is certain to fall below that figure. A conservative estimate by grain men and experts who have visited the corn belt place the total yield at 150,000,000 bushels.

The Condition of the Crops.

The U. S. Weather Bureau reports cotton opening rapidly in all districts except in North Carolina; worms and caterpillars are causing injury in several States.

Chairman Jefferson Johnson, of the Texas State Boll Weevil Committee, in a statement of the cotton prospects in his State, says that the yield will be about 2,640,000 bales, which is an increase of about 10 per cent over the yield of last year. He says that the increase in acreage planted is the cause of the increase of the yield.

The Government estimate of the wheat crop in the spring was 637,000,000 bushels. This estimate was reduced after harvest to 540,000,000, and some think that revised estimate is still too high. The Government estimate of the corn crop this year is 2,500,000,000 bushels. Mr. James J. Hill and others who have sources of accurate information say that the crop will fall 500,000,000 bushels below the Government estimate.

Last week's North Carolina crop bulletin has this to say as to conditions in this State: Cotton picking is general in all sections, but on account of cool nights the bolls are opening slowly; from all indications the crop will be quite short. Fodder pulling and haying is active in all sections; and on account of the favorable weather, both hay and fodder are being saved in excellent condition in the western half of the State. Tobacco cutting and curing is advancing rapidly in the north-central counties; about two-thirds of the crop has been saved, and the general results are fairly satisfactory. Peanuts were damaged slightly; the crop will be short, but the quality appears to be good. Plowing for wheat is general in all parts of the State, but the work is advancing slowly. Sugar cane is ripening, and some molasses has already been made.

As to the wheat situation, the Washington correspondent of The Progressive Farmer writes as follows: "Uncle Sam will be forced to the unusual expedient of having to buy wheat this year. Instead of being the granary of the world, with a crop large enough to satisfy the large home demands and to supply foreign markets, we will have to import enough to meet the needs of our domestic consumers. This shortage has meant record prices to the farmers, but it will also, in the near future, mean higher rates for flour and for bread. It is of interest to see from what source we will obtain this extra quantity. Our eyes naturally turn first to our Northern neighbor. Canada has for years raised a large surplus of wheat, which has found an outlet abroad. Manitoba and Northwest Territories are great grain producing sections, and have attracted an increasing stream of emigration from the farmers of our own Western States. Wheat can be harvested there within 120 days after planting. There have been rumors that the crop there had also been injured by rust and frost, but a report from one of our consular officers says that the damage is not thought to exceed 10 per cent. The average yield is nineteen bushels to the acre."

The Guatemalan Ant and the Boll Weevil.

The Progressive Farmer has received from the United States Department of Agriculture a copy of Bulletin No. 49, Bureau of Entomology, "Report on the Guatemalan Cotton Boll Weevil Ant." After giving thirteen pages as to its habits; etc., the report concludes as follows:

"The present status of the investigation of the boll weevil ant may be summarized by saying that three of five crucial questions have been met and answered, and that two others are still to be reached, but with no insurmountable obstacles as yet in sight.

"(1) An ant has been discovered in Guatemala which attacks and kills the adult boll weevil, and thus holds this most injurious insect in check and permits the regular harvesting of a crop of cotton, even under conditions favorable to the weevil.

"(2) This ant is carnivorous and predaceous; it injures no form of vegetation, and takes nothing from the cotton plant except the nectar secreted for it on the leaves and floral envelopes.

"(3) The habit and temperament of the insect are such that it is readily capable of domestication, transportation, and colonization in the cotton fields of Texas.

"The issues which remain to be determined are:

"(4) Whether the keleps will survive the winter climate of Texas; and,

"(5) Whether they can be obtained or propagated in sufficient numbers to serve the practical purpose for which they have been introduced.

"It would be most unfortunate, however, if the discovery of what may prove to be an effective enemy of the boll weevil should result in any premature relaxation of efforts to avoid damage by cultural expedients."

Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, announces that he still has great hopes of far-reaching results from the ant experiment, incorrect newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding. The Secretary says that of the eighty-nine colonies already imported only one has been lost, and that through an accident. The statements that the ants have died off, or have been killed, it is announced, are erroneous. The ants are vigorous and are still active in destroying the boll weevil, and all of the colonies have increased in numbers since they were liberated.

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